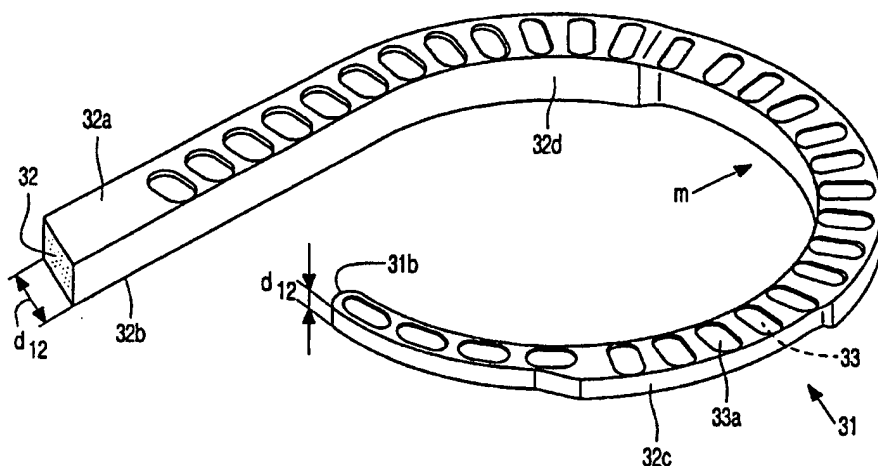




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(54) Title: COCHLEA-IMPLANTABLE AUDITIVE PROSTHESIS



(57) Abstract

An auditive prosthesis comprising an elongated carrier (31) which can be implanted in the scala tympani of a cochlea, which carrier is provided, over at least a part of its length, at a first side face with electrode elements and, at a second side face (32b) facing away from the first side face (32a), with an electric conductor. Said side faces are interconnected by a third side face (32c) and a fourth side face (32d), said first side face extending, in a state where the carrier is implanted in the scala tympani, opposite the basilar membrane of the cochlea. In order to achieve, after implantation, an information transfer to the auditory nerve which is as complete as possible, the third side face and the fourth side face of the carrier are arranged, over at least a part of the length of the carrier where electrode elements are present, at distances from each other which are at least substantially equal to corresponding dimensions of the scala tympani which are parallel to the basilar membrane. After implantation of the carrier, the scala tympani is at least substantially completely filled, over at least a part of the area extending between the fenestra cochlea and the helicotrema, in a zone extending parallel to the basilar membrane.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04R25/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04R A61N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97 38653 A (ANTWERP BIONIC SYSTEMS NV ;PEETERS STEFAAN (BE); OFFECIERS ERWIN ()) 23 October 1997 (1997-10-23) cited in the application page 2, line 6 - line 24 page 5, line 13 -page 7, line 8 page 9, line 6 - line 26 abstract; claims 1,2; figures 1,4,5	1,2,5, 8-10,13
X A	WO 93 06698 A (COCHLEAR PTY LTD ;UNIV MELBOURNE (AU)) 1 April 1993 (1993-04-01) the whole document	1,2,5,9, 10,13 3,4,6
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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